



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

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NEWS RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CEQ Recommends Phase-out of Seldom-Used Power Plant in Hartford

One of Connecticut's Biggest Sources of Pollution When it Operates

HARTFORD – The Council on Environmental Quality took the unusual step of submitting recommendations to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) regarding the proposed renewal of the air quality permit for the South Meadow “jets,” which are eight aging kerosene-fired turbines that generate electricity during periods of peak demand and which the Council determined put out more particulate pollution on an hourly basis than nearly any other power plant in the state.

The Council points out that the facility, while operating infrequently, generally runs on the hottest days when air quality already is at its worst. The “jets” are called upon to generate electricity to power air conditioners, most of which are not efficient models and therefore are wasting much of the electricity on the grid.

In its comments, the Council says that “Resorting to the use of expensive kerosene-fueled jets to meet electricity demand on days of unhealthy air quality is the consequence of past energy policies that failed to promote efficiency sufficiently. To rectify this unfortunate product of past failures, the DEEP should outline a strategy for reducing peak demand that will preclude the need for the jets to operate.”

“We are not recommending immediate closure of the facility,” said CEQ Chair

Barbara Wagner. “If we have a hot summer, people will need air conditioning. But by 2013, the state should be implementing policies and practices that eliminate the need for this highly-polluting plant.”

The South Meadow jets also are maintained because they have “black-start” capacity, meaning they can be started even if the rest of the grid is blacked out. The Council does not recommend elimination of that capacity, but is recommending phase-out of their use to generate electricity to meet peak summertime demand.

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